

Docket No. 740145-148

Serial No. 09/544,615

Page 2

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the third full paragraph of page 7 to read:

The proportion of the conductive component of the functionally gradient material 21 at the point of attachment 26 is no less than 0.6 Vol% and no more than ~~30~~ 39 Vol%. Furthermore, there is, from the non-conductive end 22 of the functionally gradient material to the point of attachment 26, a cylindrical gap such that the lead bar 11 does not contact the inside surface of the hole 25.